

death? Understand the meaning of
realisation before
death comes, when you have life.

The aphorisms collect wisdom on many
topics of
daily importance. The words regarding
charity illus-
trate this very well. Indra, says Sarvajna
speaking of
this subject, is seated on the elephant but
will not grant
anything. Siva does not ride as high being
seated on
a bull but gives all we desire. It is not what
one owns
but one's disposition that makes him give.
He who
has but does not give is poor in spirit.
His position
is worse than the beggar's. If you give
alms to those
who beg you get endless bliss; if you refuse
you be-
come the beggar. Having given do not
worry nor
speak of the gifts you have made. Do not
say that
you gave and lost. It all becomes a
provision for
yourself with God. Devotion and charity
pursued for
their own sake bring the reward of a happy
life here
and hereafter. Get true knowledge, give up
show of
ceremony and do good forgetting yourself;
you will
have heaven and Siva will be pleased and
the world
will bow before you. But charity should not
be under-
taken in hope of a return. Charity which
does not
know itself, eyes that do not open but see,
worship of
one who desires nought in return—know
that these are
more than Siva. There is also such a thing
as dis-
cretion in giving. If the oil in the lamp is
exhausted
do they empty a hogshead into it? Give not
in excess
nor forgetting the duty of giving refuse to

give.

This is the code of conduct for the
soldier. A step
forward is heaven; a step backward is hell.
Each for-
ward step holds the merit of a horse
sacrifice. If it
becomes necessary give up life for the
master.